by immediate actual conditions, might

centres are unconservative in the induce-

ments they hold out to secure deposits and

to accumulate great stocks of money which

will loan at such low rates as to encourage

unduly a speculative spirit, they will strike

a blow at this returning prosperity," he yet

declared that our country was in as favor-

able a position for development in the next

ten years as it was at the beginning of the last ten year period. If Mr. Vanderlip's hearers really believed this last statement

his caution to them to beware of overspecu-

Every well informed citizen of the United

States is, like Mr. Vanderlip, a firm believer

in the great and growing prosperity of his

country and regards with general optimism

his country's future. But this does not mean that the progress of prosperity is

sure to be at a uniform rate nor justify the

assertion, specifically, that ten year stages

of "unexampled" prosperity are likely to succeed each other in our national

life. Rather does the history of the

country point to the entire improba-

was our condition in 1894, the starting point

of ten years ago? We were in a condition

of general economic starvation which had

not even then, in fact, reached its acme.

Under-consumption was the rule through-

out the business world. This one statement

covers all the myriad forms of the depres-

sion from which we were then suffering

and which was one of the most severe in

our business records. Is it to be expected

that the advance from our present high

level of national prosperity can display

the same resilience as did the great reaction

from the bitterly hard times ten years

reference be made to the iron and steel

business, which is usually called the back-

bone of the country's general industrial

life. The core of the iron and steel business

is its orders from railways, more than one-

product of the United States Steel Cor

poration being in steel rails alone. After

894 our railroads found themselves under

the necessity of practically replacing

their entire construction. Larger engines

heavier rails, firmer bridges, &c., all were

required, and the greatest rebuilding of

railroads in the history of the country pro-ceeded. Is it possible that such a re-

building is again at hand? For many

years after 1894 the gold production of

for funds made by new business and the

issue of new securities, that there was

brought about a material inflation in the

price of securities and commodities. To-

day business is so enlarged that a current

production of money fully as great as that

which now takes place is required to sus-

tain the new business and the new security

issues that offer. The figures given by

Mr. Vanderlip in his address indicate,

paradoxical as it may seem, that our

credit position is now less strong than it

was ten years ago. Our money stock in

1894 was \$1,600,009,000 and bank deposits

that is, extensions of credit, were \$4,600,-

000,000. This was a ratio, nearly, of \$1 in

cash to \$3 in credits. To-day we have

\$2,500,000,000 of money and \$10,000,000,000

of deposits, a ratio of \$1 in cash to \$4 of

credits. Ten years hence, again using

Mr. Vanderlip's statistics, the ratio will

be, at the same rate of progress, \$1 in cash

to \$6 in deposits. Will that serve to put

ousiness on a firmer basis or to make credit

collapses less liable to occur? We should

all of us be "bulls on our country," but

we should not, nevertheless, in taking

thought of the future or the present, strip

ourselves of common sense or forget the

fifth of the total tonnage of the finished

since?

To use one illustration only, let

bility of such an occurrence.

lation fell upon deafened ears.

the whole period of recovery,"

"if bankers in the

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rising of the sea.

presidents of the National City Bank, be-

fore the Illinois State Bankers' Association

at their meeting in St. Louis. For reasons

that need no retelling here, the speculative

portion of Wall Street looked forward with

interest to what Mr. Vanderlip had to sav.

He pointed out in graphic language the

vast increase in our total wealth in the last

ten years, the enlargement of our money

stock and bank deposits, and the marvellous

growth of all of our productive industries.

Our prosperity in this period, he said, had

been such as no other country in any age

had ever known and the expansion of our business had been unexampled and beyond

all the experience of men of affairs; and with

this statement all intelligent economists will

agree. Then, while declaring "that en-

couragement to a speculative boom at

this time, when improvement is justi-

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Outside of the reported purchase of the Ontario and Western Railroad property by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company, there was last week hardly any development in the financial world worthy of the name. The purchase was not officially confirmed, but Wall Street believes that announcement of the fact will soon be made, and that even if the New Haven company is not the buyer, some other railroad company is, or soon will be; for it is admitted that the Ontario and Western is for sale. No doubt, the New Haven people can make as good use of the Ontario and Western as anybody else can. In the great coal strike in 1902 the New Haven road suffered more than any other railroad in the country by reason of its well nigh complete exclusion from coal supplies. It is imperative that this should not happen again; coal strikes are not, after all, things of the past; and, moreover, in normal times the New Haven will have no difficulty in distributing all the coal that he Ontario and Western can furnish to it. The means of connection between the two lines will be, of course, the Poughkeepsie bridge. The news of this sale, though by no means a surprising circumstance, seemed to heighten very much the excitement now prevailing in speculative circles. It made it appear possible that another era of "buying for control" in the railway world was dawning. With the Ontario and Western out of the way, the Erie was left as the one remaining independent trunk line; ought not every one to own some portion of the more than \$250,000,000 of Erie securities possessing voting power in order to be able to sell the same at a large profit when the contest for the ownership of the property began? Rumors were put in circulation regarding the "ultimate destiny" of such railway companies as the Chicago and Great Western, Delaware and Hudson, Iowa Central, Missouri, Kansas and Texas, Wisconsin Central, Toledo, St. Louis and Western, and, indeed, concerning all the minor railway properties, and there was much buying of the stock of all of these railways in consequence. A question greatly discussed last week was as to the extent to which the "public" had entered the stock market. On the face of things it would seem that a market whose daily transactions were running well above a minimum of a million shares and at times approximating double that quantity was clearly dominated by an "outside" interest and that the charge that such a market was merely manipulated was ill founded. But if the judgment of a majority of the heads of the great commission houses in Wall Street is held to be conclusive in the matter the fact is that the market is now composed of about one-fifth public and four-fifths manipulation or purely professional speculation. That is, that while public interest in the market is unquestionably greater than it has been at any time before during the year and that in so large a volume of trading the orders from outsiders foot up, even in the small proportion named, a very considerable total, yet the market is still in the main an affair either of professional operations or the steps taken by great capitalist interests. This opinion, it must be confessed, coincides with the views of most of those who confine their observations nerely to the play of the stock quotation astruments alore. The dealings one day in 100,000 shares or more of a particular security and in the next day in the same security of a relatively small amount; the enormous sudden buying, jammed into an hour's space, of some one stock, which advances the price of the issue mightily; equally enormous apparent buying on other days in a few securities which leaves their price practically unchanged; the liquidation apparent last week in many stocks which have until recently been the market leaders, while elsewhere in the list there was activity and buoyaney these and other similar characteristics of the market are such as could not occur in one governed by a broad and gengeneral, of what sort the present market is may be gathered from the circumstance that the "scalping" operations of one room trader alone, conducted wholly for his single personal account, caused him to buy and

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

plain and terrible lessons of the past.

RAILROAD AND OTHER BONDS. sell in the course of one day's session of the Stock Exchange last week, 127,000 shares of 51 A T & S F ad 4a, std..... 9514 9514 9514 + 14 9514 8734 35 A T & S F stock. Nevertheless, although a soberminded and experienced operator in stocks knows full well that conditions such as have been described are ephemeral and that the market in which they exist rings as hollow as can be, the last thing he thinks of doing is to contend against them in his own speculative ventures or to attempt to set bounds to the length of time that such conditions will prevail. Those who are not in sympathy with the present uprash of security prices are perfectly well aware that what is going on is merely the natural efflorescence of a growth which started months before and which they were then in sparse company in observing; and they recognize, too, that among the sanguine and sentimental American people the tendency is to push all such movements in either direction to greater extremes than at the outset of the movement sensible people deemed possible. For all that, the end of such frenzies, even if they are in a sense artificial frenzies, will come as surely as the winter frosts and as resistlessly as the The great speculation that is now going 2 C M & St P.

on in Wall Street-even if it has not yet infected and may not infect, as it did in 1902, the people of the whole country, for he good reason that the people in the West who are relatively rich distrust Wall Street and that the people of the East, who would ordinarily be excited buyers of stocks at this time, are relatively poor-is, in fact, a C& PW 58..11876 11676 11676 - 16 117 11496 prodigious wager that the business of the Min Pt..... 10734 10734 10734 +134 10734 106 11 C M & St P, H & D 7s... 11674 11634 11634 +234 11834 11634 country next year will be practically as active and profitable as it was in the extraordinary period between 1898 and 1902. SM 66.....11194 11134 11134 + 34 11234 11034 There are substantial reasons, and they have been evident ever since last spring, for the belief that our next season's general business would be an improvement over that of the one which is now just closing. 22 CSIPMECC C1.1284, 185 Thoughtful observers were early impressed this year with the conviction that if the year's crops were good a distinct business revival would take place; that is, if an orgy in the stock market did not strangle it before its birth. And this attracts atten-C Bank cts...19234 10114 19154 - 14 19254 17156 tion to the one event last week which really 1144 Cons Tob 4s.... 78% 74 '5% +1% 77% 53% 1 Cons's Gas of caused more comment in the financial community than any other. That was the speech of Mr. Vanderlip, one of the vice-

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our country and the world increased so 29 Or Short L6s. 175 12434 115 +1 12514 12054 12 Or Short L5s. 11714 17114 171 much more rapidly than did the demands

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